

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
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29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for instant messaging comprising:
- enabling a first instant messaging user, using a thin client device, to employ a presence server for initiating an active session on a communications channel between at least the first instant messaging user and a second instant messaging user;
  - conducting text-based instant messaging on the communications channel between the first instant messaging user and the second instant messaging user; and
  - enabling the presence server to maintain the active session for the communications channel on behalf of the thin client device even though the thin client device is disconnected from the presence server; and  
after the thin client device has been at least temporarily disconnected from the presence server, enabling the first instant messaging user via the thin client device to utilize the communications channel again by reconnecting the thin client to the presence server via the active session.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 31 further comprising:
- employing use of an IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system to receive a message from the first instant messaging user for transmission over the communications channel to the second instant messaging user.
33. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 32 further comprising:
- via at least partial use of the IVR system, recording an audio message initiated by the first instant messaging user from a telephone;
  - and

communicating a hyperlink to the audio message in a text-based instant message delivered to the second instant messaging user.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 33 further comprising:
- receiving a request from a third instant messaging user to connect to a communications channel associated with a previously active session associated with another presence server; and
  - redirecting the third instant messaging user to the other communications channel associated with the previous session.